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Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for August 1960

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

25X1A9a

25X1A8a

During the month GG/F reviewed a series of overlays on Tibet, scale 1:1,000,000, being done by D/GC for one of the TAB studies. A check of the maps revealed many questionable details, particularly in relation to the pattern of motorable roads. A subsequent meeting with [REDACTED] resulted in reclassifying most of the questionable road detail and placing it in a category of "secondary roads or tracks". The maps then generally agreed with the known pattern of road developments in Tibet. It appears that [REDACTED] 25X1A8a research personnel either lack the background or make little effort to evaluate the intelligence available to them for these studies. In the present situation, it appears that if any source mentioned the existence of a road between two settlements, a truck symbol was placed on the map. The map then gives the illusion that motorable roads of the same standard of construction exist wherever the truck symbol appears.

Coordination of the draft copy of the section on Minerals and Metals, NIS-26, required an extraordinary amount of time during the month. The USSR, a mineral-rich country covering one-sixth of the earth's surface, contains hundreds of important mineral deposits. Many of these deposits are extremely difficult to identify and locate precisely. The problem is the result of the peculiarity of Russian text which converts place names into adjectival forms that are often impossible to render back into the original noun form without the aid of detailed minerals maps or lists -- which Soviet authorities fail to provide. Existing political-administrative maps, handbooks, and other standard geographic reference aids are frequently of little use. Accuracy of place names and locations is obviously essential since the draft is to become part of the NIS, but the magnitude of the task must be recognized in programing branch work. Except for the fortuitious circumstance that a summer employee with a knowledge of Russian was available, this coordination effort would have drastically bogged down the already limited capacity of the branch during the month.

The receipt by FDD of geographical literature from Communist China appears to have dwindled to ;the point that JPRS publication of monographic and periodical literature in this field is jeopardized. If the program is to be maintained, it seems that publication procurement will have to be intensified and extended.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

COORDINATION STAFF

The chief problem is one of staffing. Information was sent to St/A so that a machine run of possible candidates could be made.

NEAR EAST/Africa BRANCH

The crowding that will be experienced in the new building by most Branches of D/GG became evident when furniture locations were firmed up on 30 August 1960.

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

One problem exists at this time. The overload in both reproduction plants has seriously delayed certain aspects of Division work. Uncertainty as to when reproduction will be able to complete Division requests has made planning and scheduling exceedingly difficult.

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

A method of obtaining copies of final NIS maps, which have been forwarded to OBI for printing, should be worked out. At present there are no copies of these maps in our files other than in the NIS itself.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

25X1X7□

A letter was received from the [REDACTED] cancelling its exchange. This is one of several sources for maps of Africa that are being lost with the establishment of new independent countries.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED] who was on detail in the Reference Branch, is no longer with the Branch. Her clerical services will be greatly missed. The Reference Branch again has no clerical help.

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